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OFCM



OFFICE OF THE FEDERAL COORDINATOR FOR
METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES AND SUPPORTING RESEARCH

NATIONAL POST-STORM DATA ACQUISITION PLAN



FCM-P33-2003

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CHANGE AND REVIEW LOG

Use this page to record changes, notices and reviews.

Change Number	Page Numbers	Date Posted	Initials
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Changes are indicated by a vertical line in the margin next to the change.

Review Date	Comments	Initials

FOREWORD

This publication is the 1st edition of the National Post-Storm Data Acquisition Plan (NPSDAP). It is a compilation of procedures and agreements reached through efforts of the Working Group for Natural Disaster Reduction and Post-Storm Data Acquisition (WG/NDR/PSDA). The WG/NDR/PSDA brings together the cognizant federal agencies on items of mutual interest and concern related to the acquisition and preservation of perishable environmental data following a significant storm, flood, tornado, or tsunami event.

The NPSDAP describes the mechanisms and procedures for coordinating the environmental data acquisition activities of participating federal agencies following a significant event. The intent of the NPSDAP is to provide a description of the types of data required or desired by the participating agencies and the means used to coordinate the various data acquisition activities. It is not the goal of the NPSDAP to prescribe the data acquisition activities of participating agencies, but instead to coordinate those agency activities already required by existing mission directives. The procedures outlined herein will no doubt be revised and refined as experience is gained in their application.

The effectiveness of the NPSDAP begins with the participation and dedication of the agency representatives assigned as members of the WG/NDR/PSDA. It is their willingness to accept personal responsibility to be available at what are typically stressful and inconvenient times and function as the primary liaison for their agency that permits that agency to perform its task most efficiently.

Samuel P. Williamson
Federal Coordinator for Meteorological
Services and Supporting Research

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The impetus for development of a national plan to coordinate the acquisition of post-storm data stemmed from a recognition by elements of several federal agencies that they were performing complementary and, in some cases, duplicate tasks while acquiring environmental data following significant storm events. These agencies desired to improve and leverage use of their individual resources by a collective response to the data acquisition task.

A series of informal meetings were held where the data acquisition capabilities and requirements of the interested agencies were identified, and a number of recommendations resulted. The National Post-Storm Data Acquisition Plan (NPSDAP) addresses one of the principal recommendations which was to document the types of data required, the acquisition processes, and the coordinating procedures to be used following a significant storm event. The Plan serves as a framework for the coordination of data acquisition activities of the participating agencies during a significant event, and the documentation and deposition of data and products following the event. Funding for the activities of the participating agencies is provided primarily by the individual agency's parent organization.

Environmental events addressed in the NPSDAP include landfalling tropical cyclones (hurricanes/typhoons and tropical storms), coastal extratropical storms (Nor'easters), severe convective outbreaks (tornadoes and windstorms), riverine and flash flooding, and tsunamis (tidal waves). The plan includes data requirements and acquisition capabilities of the participating agencies, event response initiation criteria, coordination procedures, agency points of contact, and data deposition procedures. An agency response to a particular event is the responsibility of the individual agency according to its mission requirements, data needs, and available resources.

The NPSDAP is a dynamic document. The contributors to its development anticipate and expect that the NPSDAP will be modified over time to reflect changes in the missions and resources of the interested agencies, the addition of types of hazards included in the plan, and the effects of evolving technologies.

As the body of data acquired by the participating agencies and associated event documentation grows, preparation of event and actuarial statistics becomes feasible. The responsibility and methodology for preparation of these statistics could become elements of future versions of the NPSDAP. Such statistics should prove useful to private sector institutions, such as the insurance industry, as well as other federal agencies.

NATIONAL POST-STORM DATA ACQUISITION PLAN

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